

# C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. TRACKS



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## Cutting Edge Technology



Using the Trimble GPS system to construct a new pond at Lion Mountain Ranch in Ojai is allowing C. A. Rasmussen to save money on the project by not using surveyors. (Right) Foreman Brandon Medema uses the Trimble rover to check grade as Tim Markley cuts grade without the need of survey staking.

Rasmussen's new project at the Bentley Family's Lion Mountain Ranch in Ojai is using the latest in GPS technology to grade a new pond without the use of surveyors or stakes.

The pond at Lion Mountain Ranch requires the excavation of about 51,500 cubic yards of dirt. When completed, the pond will be shaped like a bean, and will measure 1,000 feet long and 400 feet wide. Grading began on June 1, and there is a bonus incentive for Rasmussen to complete the project within 75 days.

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## Work Begins on Trio of Ventura County Jobs

This summer, C. A. Rasmussen, Inc. has scored a triple-play of paving projects in Ventura County.

The first features 26 miles of asphalt paving along Highway 150 from Santa Paula to Carpinteria. The Caltrans job is anticipated to begin after the July 4th holiday, Project Manager Dave Dubois said, and the only challenge he

foresees is the delivery of material and traffic control on the winding mountain road.

The second project is a Caltrans job asphalt paving and concrete slab replacement along a 3.5 mile stretch of Highway 101 in La Conchita. One challenge on the project will be a significant amount of night work to

resurface lanes. Work will start in July and is scheduled to wrap up by February 2017.

Finally, Rasmussen has just started work on a street resurfacing project for the city of Ventura. The location of the work runs from Santa Clara Street to Dakota Drive. The project includes

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BUILDING THE RASMUSSEN WAY

From the Desk of ...

Doug Misley



## Staying Armed with a Plan of Attack

Two of the major factors that make Rasmussen projects so successful are *PLANNING* and *COMMUNICATION*.

Planning ahead is essential to this company's daily operations. Without planning, materials don't get delivered; equipment doesn't show up; people don't know where they're going or what they're supposed to do when they get there; work doesn't get done productively or correctly or may not get done at all.

Just as essential is communication. On any given Rasmussen project, there are dozens of different employees involved from start to finish. Estimators, take-off technician, estimating coordinator, operations manager, project manager, project engineer, contract administrator, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, dispatcher, and we haven't even gotten to the union field employees yet.

Our company's ability to plan ahead and successfully communicate that plan with one another sets us apart from other contractors. We don't walk into anything blindly; we are always armed with a well-thought and communicated plan of attack.

In estimating, every bid we prepare is based on a preconceived plan of how we intend to build a project. When we're the successful low bidder, that plan is communicated via job handoff to our project management team as a starting point. The as-bid plan improves prior to and during construction through constant communication.

In the field, our project managers lead weekly SQSP – Safety, Quality, Service, Productivity – meetings in which we continually review and update the plan. Through the help of experienced superintendents, foremen and crews, the plan for each operation is fine-tuned. Alternate methods to build the work are discussed. Those methods, if proven more productive and profitable, become part of a new and improved plan. Once built out, any methods that helped improve the end result of our operations are communicated back to the estimating department to be utilized in future bids to make us more competitive.

Our SQSP meetings keep the project management team apprised of upcoming issues to communicate with the agency.

Our entire operations team meets weekly to communicate job progress, schedule, crew and equipment needs, and to discuss and provide any expertise regarding upcoming operations. Project teams continually communicate with other project teams regarding sharing of equipment, personnel, materials and methods.

I commend our team at C. A. Rasmussen for continuing to make our projects successful through persistent planning and communication. In the future, be sure to keep our subcontractors and vendors involved in planning and communication as well. They are obligated to attend our meetings upon request.

Keep up the great work.

## Did you hear?!?

- Big baby news! **Michelle Benitez** is expecting her first baby. Little Noah will be introduced into the world this November. Michelle's cravings include cucumber, watermelon and fruit with Tajin, so we know her little boy will be spicy -- just like his mom. Congratulations!
- Summer internships are underway! Welcome to **Danny Gonzalez**, **Jeremy Hignite** and **Joshua Saghezi**. Thanks for spending your summer with us, instead of going on vacation.
- The Estimating Department got a new plan printer, and had a blast trying to figure out how to use it.



Got news to share? E-mail it to [sklein@carasmussen.com](mailto:sklein@carasmussen.com)

## PAVING, from page 1

500,000 square feet of cold milling; 7,000 tons of rubberized asphalt pavement; 1,100 tons of asphalt dig-outs; the replacement of 25 handicap ramps, plus the modification of 70 existing ramps to make them ADA compliant; miscellaneous PCC removal and replacement; striping; signs; and traffic loops.

Project Manager Eric Peterson said the biggest challenge with this project is managing traffic, and coordination with residents and business owners.

"Ventura Avenue is a very congested street and we need to maintain two-way traffic during work hours," he said. "Also, we can't leave open excavations at the end of each shift."

Work on the Ventura job will be completed by mid-September.



# UPDATE



The Highway 126/Commerce Center Drive project is making headway. A ribbon cutting ceremony in March celebrated the opening of eastbound lanes to traffic over the bridge. Cooper Engineering will wrap up Stage 3 of the project by completing jointed plain concrete pavement for the future westbound off-ramp at Commerce Center Drive, allowing Rasmussen to move on to Stage 4.

Stage 4 will see the opening of the bridge to westbound traffic, completion of the MSE walls, and paving and construction for the new westbound on- and off-ramps. Project Manager Dave Dubois warned there will be a three-way stop at Commerce Center Drive and the old Highway 126, so those leaving the cor-



porate office might want to consider using Hasley Canyon Road to get to Interstate 5. Traffic traveling from Commerce Center Drive to Westbound 126 will have to use Franklin until the on-ramp is completed.

Stage 4 will take about four months and will bring the job to about 95 percent completion. After that, there will be two more short project stages to complete the Commerce Center Drive on- and off-ramp intersection. Final project completion is expected for February 2017.

## GPS, from page 1

Project manager Eric Peterson said Rasmussen has reduced costs by utilizing GPS grade control instead of surveyors to construct the pond.

Take-off Technician Sarah Wilkinson used AGTEK to create a 3D model for GPS grade control equipment to utilize to cut slopes for the pond. The models are uploaded to equipment in the field and used in place of surveying stakes to ensure the grading is being done according to design.

Wilkinson created two models: The first for a subgrade layer on which a pond liner will be placed, and the second for soil to be filled in after the liner is installed. The liner must be cool before Rasmussen can backfill, Peterson said, so finding a time during summer heat waves could be a challenge.



## Rasmussen Celebrates EARTH DAY



Rasmussen helped the Friends of the Los Angeles River at its annual Clean the River event on April 23 in Los Feliz. The company was represented by Danielle Tellez, Stacey Huerta, and Jonathan Gonzalez, who single-handedly unearthed two shopping carts from the muddy river bottom. Special mention goes to significant others Ron Kightlinger and Victor Huerta for lending a hand.



## Employee Spotlight

1. How long have you worked at

C. A. Rasmussen? 20 years.

2. What project are you currently working on?

Highway 126 at Commerce Center Drive.

3. What is your relationship status?

Whipped.

4. How old were you when you had your first beer? 16. But it was 3.2 Utah brew (Rocky Mountain spring water)

5. What do you like to do on weekends?

Fish, work on cars, yardwork, hike, mountain bike, camp – anything outside that does not involve a phone or computer.

6. Why do you always walk so fast???

What!?! I thought y'all were just slow!

7. Do you have any tattoos? Negative. I am a Sneechee with no star on its belly!

8. What has been your most challenging project working at Rasmussen? Highway 126 at Commerce Center Drive.

9. What is your favorite word? It would not be politically correct for me to provide that information. It is not one of the seven words you can't say on TV.

10. Where were you born? Salt Lake City.

11. Do you have any pets? A "step" dog - Miniature Chihuahua. I think of it as the love child of a squirrel and a rat.

12. Name one thing on your bucket list.

To see the northern lights in person.

13. How fast can you run a mile? I don't know. I never run with a GPS or timer.

14. What are your favorite TV shows?

Three way tie: King of the Hill, Southpark or The Simpsons. I would become highly distressed if they were all on at the same time.

15. What is your best memory of working at Rasmussen? This is tricky because of my answer to Question 3, so I am going with Lisa. But, working in the back of the old Simi Office was good times!

16. If you didn't work in this industry, what

would you do instead?

Finish carpentry, remodels or custom homes – something like that.

17. What is your favorite food? Gotta go with tacos. Run-of-the-mill homemade tacos from the McCormick (or Lowry's) seasoning packet.

18. Which is your favorite animal in the zoo? Not a zoo fan. My favorite animal is the one doing its thing in the wild – I like watching that. I have a lot of empathy for the poor creatures stuck in prison for a crime they did not commit.

19. When was the last time you rode the bus? Probably back in '84 when my car was broke down and I had to take the school bus.

20. Which Rasmussen employee would you like to see in the next spotlight?

How about Daisy? I would like to know who we are entrusting our paychecks with.





# SAFETY CORNER

with Joe Mack

## Maintaining a Safety Policy While Off the Clock

We live in a world full of hazards. Potential danger lurks around every corner.

Loose cords can wrap around the tips of our shoes; ladders rest on unsteady footing; spilled liquids lay waiting for us to slip; our cell phones demand our attention. The threats are endless.

That's why it's up to all of us to help each other by being safety-conscious at work, at home and when driving.

Simply put: You can't be too safe.

It can be so easy to check out, mentally, in a setting where you don't believe there's imminent danger. Maybe just a quick cell phone call when driving, or glancing down to check a text message -- it doesn't seem like there are many threats around you, but staying alert and catching a mistake made by another driver could mean the difference between life and death for you and your loved ones.

Is safety more important at work than at home? It doesn't matter where you

are; you need to be aware of your surroundings. Some of the most dangerous times of our day can actually be after a long day at work, when we're tired and running on autopilot. That's the point

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*No one wants  
to see someone  
they care about  
get hurt.*

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where things could really go wrong.

People who regularly use proper Personal Protective Equipment at work, skip all that "extra stuff" when working on a project at home. The risk from a power saw at home is no less, and the injury received falling off a ladder at home will hurt just as bad. Hearing and eye protection are just for "professionals."

Being safe also has a huge impact

on your friends and family. Sometimes family members or friends who have been around a little longer are used to doing things a certain way, and they don't follow current safety procedures. Speak up and let them know there is a better way. No one wants to see someone they care about get hurt.

Used properly, cell phones can help keep your family in touch and provide emergency communication. The use of cell phones is not a good idea while driving. It is too easy to be distracted and have an accident while trying to multi-task. Do you think your teens will respect a "No Cell Phones While Driving" rule if Mom and Dad use their phones while behind the wheel? Be a good example for others and explain why there is a safer way.

We can always improve on safety at work, at home, and on the road. The more we stay aware and find safer solutions, the better we are at practicing safety no matter when or where we are.

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## SUMMER IS HERE!

Protect yourself from heat illness with these tips:

- Stay hydrated: Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you're not thirsty.
- Rest in the shade to cool down.
- Wear light-colored clothing.
- Report heat symptoms early.
- Keep an eye on fellow workers.
- Gradually increase workload: New workers need to acclimate to the heat.
- Learn the signs of heat illness and what to do in an emergency.



## 2016 COMPANY CALENDAR

Monday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, September 5	Labor Day
Friday, November 11	Veteran's Day – Holiday
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 25	Day after Thanksgiving Day
Saturday, December 3	Operating Engineers Holiday
Friday, December 23	Floating Holiday
Monday, December 26	Christmas Holiday

# PLAY BALL !

*C. A. Rasmussen, Inc.*

*FOUNDER'S DAY*

*August 27, 2016*

*More information coming soon ...*